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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES.

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

HON. C. C. WASHBURN.

BEFORE THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

JULY 25, 1882.

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E. B. Washburn

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

HON. C. C. WASHBURN, LL. D.,

LATE GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN.

BEFORE THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

JULY 25, 1882.

MADISON, WIS.:
DAVID ATWOOD, PRINTER AND STEREOTYPER.
1883.

IN MEMORIAM.

HON. CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN, LL.D.

State Historical Society, July 25, 1882.

Gen. Simeon Mills, one of the Vice Presidents, in the chair, who announced the object of the meeting — to pay a suitable tribute of respect to the memory of the late Hon. C. C. Washburn, LL.D., for nearly six years past the President of the Society.

Gen. David Atwood arose, and presented the following

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the State Historical Society:

New England has produced a large number of men of strong convictions, of sterling integrity, of uncompromising patriotism, of inflexible devotion to freedom and the equality of man; and it has been liberal in the peopling of States and Territories outside of its own limits, with a substantial class of citizens who have done valuable service in shaping the character of the new States. They have carried into the new country the habits of industry, frugality and morality, inherited from the Puritan Fathers, with such improvements as have been gained in several generations by experience, and from the superior educational facilities afforded in that section of the country. In the vast numbers of people that New England has sent into other parts of our Union, there have been few, if any, in the great Northwest, who more fully represented, in their every day action, the sturdy qualities — mentally, physically and morally — of these New England Puritans, than did the Hon. Cadwallader C. Washburn, whose many virtues of head and heart we now meet to commemorate, and whose death to mourn! This distin-

guished citizen of Wisconsin died at Eureka Springs, in Arkansas, at 5:30 o'clock, in the afternoon of the 14th of May, 1882. He had been a patient sufferer from the 3d day of February, 1881, on which day he was first attacked with paralysis, resulting from Bright's disease of the kidneys, which had been preying upon him for some time, scarcely realized by himself. From this attack he partially recovered, and during the year visited Europe in the hope of finding relief in the change of climate and from the skill of the most eminent physicians in the world. The relief was only temporary. In a few months he returned to his own country, and after receiving treatment for a short time in Philadelphia, repaired in February last to the healing springs of Arkansas, accompanied by his brother, Hon. E. B. Washburne, of Chicago. For a while, he seemed to improve; but it was not long till renewed attacks of paralysis were experienced, and new complications of his disease set in, baffling the skill of all physicians, causing him to fail during the last two weeks of his life with fearful rapidity, and resulting in his peacefully passing away, surrounded by his immediate family and many anxious friends, as recorded above.

The life of this great and good man was of vast importance to his adopted State and to the country; and his death is properly claimed as a public calamity. The duty of placing on the records of this Society a brief sketch of his life, making reference to some of the more important events in it, has been assigned to me; and while I feel entirely incompetent to do reasonable justice to the subject, will make the effort, and if I fail, it will not result from the want of a due appreciation of the exalted character and great worth of the noble man, whose name and acts will be remembered, and held in the highest respect by the people of the Commonwealth through all coming time.

In the ancestry of Mr. Washburn, he goes back on both his father's and mother's sides to the early settlements by the Puritans. John Washburn, from whom he was a direct descendant, was Secretary of Plymouth Colony in England, came to this country in 1631, and settled in what was then known as the "Eagle's Nest," in Duxbury, Massachusetts. The great-grandfather of Mr. Washburn was a very prominent man in his day;

an extensive farmer, and the proprietor of a large iron furnace in Raynham, Massachusetts. He was for many years, a representative in the General Court. Our late ex-Governor is reported as having borne a striking personal resemblance to his great-grandfather. His grandfather, Capt. Israel Washburn, was a resident of the same town of Raynham, served in the Revolutionary war, was a member of the Massachusetts convention that ratified the Constitution of the United States, and was repeatedly chosen to represent his people in the General Court. the New England name for Legislature in the early days, and frequently used at the present time. His father, Israel Washburn, was born in Raynham, November 18, 1784; he moved to Maine in 1806; stopped a brief time in several places, teaching school, and following his trade as a ship builder. In 1809, he purchased a farm and store in Livermore, where he continued in trade till 1829, when he gave up his mercantile pursuits, and spent the subsequent years of his life on his farm known as the "Norlands." He represented his town in the Legislature in 1815, 1816, 1818 and 1819, while Maine was a Province of Massachusetts. He died September 1, 1876, at the advanced age of ninety-two years.

The mother of Mr. Washburn was a descendant, in the sixth generation, from John Benjamin, who arrived in this country on the ship Lion in 1632, and was a proprietor of Cambridge; but at an early day settled at Watertown, where, in the fifth generation from John, above mentioned, Samuel Benjamin, the father of Mrs. Washburn, was born, February 3, 1753; he entered the Revolutionary army in 1775, and participated in the battles at Lexington, at Bunker Hill, at Monmouth, at Yorktown, and at many others of lesser note, in the great struggle for American Independence. His whole term of service was seven years, three months and twenty-one days. Lieut. Benjamin became the fourth settler in Livermore in 1783, where he continued to reside till his death, which occurred April 14, 1824. He married Tabitha Livermore, of Waltham, Massachusetts, January 16, 1782, and they raised a family of ten children, of whom Martha, born October 4, 1792, became the wife of Israel Washburn, March 30, 1812, and died May 6, 1861. Of this mother of Gen. Washburn, a friend in Maine writes: "She

was a woman of great force of character, of a sweet disposition and fond of her children, especially of 'Caddy,' between whom and herself there was a remarkable nearness." In memory of this good woman and revered mother, the distinguished son has provided for the founding of an Orphan's Asylum at Minneapolis, the point of his most successful business and financial achievements, and where he accumulated a large portion of his ample fortune.

It thus appears that the ancestry of our subject in this country has been long, and, on both sides, eminently respectable, prominent and imbued with pure principles and correct habits; and his immediate family has occupied an especially prominent position in the history of the country for the past thirty years. Of seven sons, four have occupied seats in Congress from four different States—Israel from Maine, Elihu B. from Illinois, Cadwallader C. from Wisconsin, and William D. from Minnesota. Israel and C. C. have been Governors of their respective States, and Elihu B. and Charles A. have represented the nation at foreign courts. All the duties of these positions have been discharged with distinguished ability, and with much usefulness to the United States Government. The venerable father lived to witness the remarkable success in life of his talented sons.

Cadwallader C. Washburn, the subject of this sketch, was born at Livermore, Maine, April 22, 1818. Of his boyhood life, we know but little. From a letter received from one who knew him well in Maine, we extract a paragraph in regard to him in his early years: "He was a quiet, broad-shouldered boy, never in trouble, and liked by everybody; observing, studious and persistent. He lived mostly at home until about 1835, working on the farm, and attending the town school. He was apt to learn and a great reader, with a remarkable memory. Sometime about the latter year, he went to Hallowell, at that time one of the most considerable trading towns in Maine, and a place of unusual culture, being the seat of the Vaughans, a distinguished English family. Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, a member of the British House of Commons, and a friend of Charles Fox, came to this country late in the last century. Here young Washburn remained, sometimes a clerk in a store, sometimes in the postoffice, where he enjoyed opportunities for study and observation, until

late in December, 1838, when he took the principal school in the ancient town of Wiscasset, to teach for the winter of 1839. That service performed, he set out, in the spring or early summer of that year, for the West. He never lived in Boston, as some papers have stated. In his case it was true, if ever, that the 'child is father of the man.'"

Mr. Washburn had not only received a good common school education in his native town of Livermore, but afterwards attended a private school that had been established in the town for teaching the higher branches of education. He also devoted some time to the study of the classics under the instruction of his uncle, the Hon. Ruel Washburn. This uncle was the principal lawyer in the town, a graduate of Brown University, and a good classical scholar. The sturdy character of Judge Washburn, the kindness he extended to him, and the encouragement and advice he gave him, was never forgotten by the nephew, as is shown by the following provision of his will:

To the three daughters of Alonzo Washburn, son of my uncle, Ruel Washburn, I give one thousand dollars each, $3,000, in token of my respect for the memory of my excellent uncle, their grandfather, who was one of the most honest and conscientious men I ever knew, and whose advice to me when I left home I have never forgotten.

Thus grounded in the substantial business and moral qualities of a New England education, with excellent health and a robust constitution, Mr. Washburn, in accordance with a long cherished intention, left the home of his childhood in the spring of 1839, to seek a new home, fortune and fame in the then Great West. He made his first stopping place at Davenport, then a small village in the then newly organized Territory of Iowa. For three months he kept a private school, and then took position on the Geological Survey of Iowa, under charge of David Dale Owen, that had been ordered by Congress. This survey was completed in November, 1849, and Mr. Washburn always spoke of this expedition as forming one of the happiest and most interesting epochs of his life. He then took up his residence at Stevenson, near Rock Island, and entered upon the study of the law in the office of an old friend from Maine, Hon. Joseph B. Wells, a man of fine ability, and who possessed many substantial and genial qualities. Mr. Wells was after-

wards elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois. In 1840, Mr. Washburn was elected surveyor of the county of Rock Island. In the spring of 1842 he deemed it necessary to bring his law studies to a close in Stevenson (then become Rock Island), and to find a location to enter the practice of his profession. In looking over the field he was attracted to Mineral Point, then the principal town in South-western Wisconsin. His brother, E. B. Washburne, had established himself two years before in a lucrative practice at Galena, Illinois, some forty miles distant, and that fact, no doubt, had considerable influence in deciding Mr. Washburn to locate at Mineral Point. He took up his residence in this thriving mining town in March, 1842, and the records show that, on motion of Hon. Moses M. Strong, he was admitted to practice at the bar, at a session of the United States District Court at Lancaster, Grant county, Judge Dunn presiding, on the 29th day of March of that year. He at once opened a law office at Mineral Point, and soon secured the confidence of the people by the promptitude and scrupulous fidelity with which he attended to business, and entered upon a successful practice, largely in the line of a collection business. He commenced his career as a lawyer with the same thorough, honest and prompt habits that characterized the later years of his life, and all matters intrusted to him received his careful personal attention till the work was completed; and when money was collected it was promptly paid over to its rightful owner. In a recent conversation with a personal friend who knew Mr. Washburn intimately in his early practice, he remarked to us, that "no person who put collections in his hands ever had to collect the money twice," indicating that such was not always the case, and that it was sometimes more difficult to collect money from the attorney after he had received it than from the original debtor. Such was not the case with Mr. Washburn. In August, 1844, he entered into partnership with Cyrus Woodman, a member of the Boston bar, who had for some years been the agent of the New England Land Company in Illinois. He was a young man of bright promise, who brought into the business of the firm, not only ability, experience and substantial character, but considerable capital; and the firm very soon connected with the law office, a land agency, and

entered upon an extensive and lucrative business. It was here that the foundation was laid that resulted in the accumulation of the immense fortune that Mr. Washburn possessed at the time of his death. The law practice was gradually abandoned, and the firm engaged largely in the entry of public lands for settlers, and the location of Mexican war land warrants. In this manner the firm became possessed of large quantities of pine, mineral and agricultural lands in its own right, and it secured many valuable farms for friends. The firm of Washburn & Woodman became widely known throughout the country, and by a system of fair and honest dealing, prompt and energetic action, established the reputation of being a strong, successful, and wealthy one for that early day in the West.

After the State Banking Law of 1852 went into operation, this firm established the Mineral Point Bank, which stood the test of all financial reverses, and never suspended specie payments. Soon after Mr. Washburn was elected to Congress, the affairs of this bank were wound up, and every dollar of its liabilities was paid in specie. The partnership of Washburn & Woodman was dissolved March 1, 1855, Mr. Woodman retiring from it, and Mr. Washburn assumed the responsibility of the entire business of the late firm. The article of dissolution was drawn up by Mr. Washburn, and contained this statement: "Whereas, we have, for upwards of ten years, been doing business as partners under the name of Washburn & Woodman, during which time, our intercourse, interrupted by no untoward circumstances, has been marked by a constant feeling of kindness and good will, coupled with an unusual degree of unanimity of sentiment in relation to our business transactions."

Mr. Washburn managed the immense business left to him, with consummate skill and ability, acquiring the reputation of being one of the most substantial, successful and reliable business men in the great North-west.

In 1850, Israel Washburn, a brother of C. C., was elected to Congress from Maine; and in 1852, Elihu B., another brother, was chosen to the same body from the Galena district, in Illinois. The old second district in Wisconsin, in which Mr. C. C. Washburn resided at that time, included within its boundaries, about two-thirds of the territory of the State, taking in Rock

and Dane counties on the east, and extending north to Lake Superior.

Mr. Washburn had been raised as a Whig, and always took great interest in political matters. On the repeal of the Missouri Compromise by Congress in 1854, he partook of the intense hostility to that measure which characterized the old Whigs and Free-soilers of Wisconsin. He was then in private life, in charge of extensive business operations, with no thought of entering into politics. The friends of Mr. Washburn, knowing his excellent business qualities and great firmness and integrity of character, made a movement, having in view his election to Congress. The idea originated in Rock county, and several of the prominent citizens of Janesville wrote a letter asking him to become a candidate for that office. Mr. W. replied to that letter on the 9th of August, 1854, expressing surprise that his name was mentioned for Congress. He could not then promise to accept a nomination on account of business engagements, but if the tender came with unanimity on the part of the convention, he would consider the propriety of accepting it. He soundly indorsed the principles of the Republican party that had just been organized in Wisconsin. The suggestion of the name of Washburn for Congress received great favor throughout the district, and at the convention, he received the nomination, without effort or even desire on his part, and was elected a member of the 34th Congress; and, on the 4th of March, 1855, the three brothers met in Washington, representing three different States in the House of Representatives, each having been elected at the age of thirty-six years.[1] These three brothers occupied

[1] Mr. Eastman, the predecessor of Mr. Washburn in Congress, had voted against the Missouri Compromise, but did not identify himself with the anti-Nebraska party in the State. A friend well acquainted with the history of the time, gives the following information, that may prove of historical interest: "It is a singular fact, but a part of the unwritten political history of Wisconsin, that the Democratic Congressional Convention for the district was held at Mineral Point in August, 1854, to nominate a candidate for Congress to succeed Mr. Eastman. This gentleman's course on the Nebraska question had offended many leaders of the party, who were determined to beat him for a re-nomination. The first thing to be done was to make a platform upon which he refused to accept a nomination. The convention then sent a committee to wait on Cyrus Woodman, the former partner of Mr. Washburn, and to offer him the nomination. Mr. Wood-

seats in Congress together for the succeeding six years, and proved themselves a strong force in shaping the legislation of the country. Mr. Washburn, being thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the new State he was chosen to represent, was instrumental in securing much legislation that has proved of great value to its people. With his brothers in Congress, he brought to bear a strong force upon any measure he desired, virtually giving his people the advantage of three representatives. In the 36th Congress, Mr. Washburn served as chairman of the committee on Private Land Claims, and as a member of the special committee of thirty-three on the State of the Union. In February, 1861, this latter committee made a report recommending a Constitutional amendment making slavery perpetual. Mr. Washburn and Mr. Tappan, of New Hampshire, joined in a minority report, which set forth in strong and truthful terms the origin of the Secession movement, and opposed any modification of the Constitution in the interests of slavery.

In January, 1861, Mr. Washburn introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the provisions of the Constitution are ample for the preservation of the Union, and the protection of all the material interests of the country; that it needs to be obeyed rather than amended; and our extrication from present difficulties is to be looked for in efforts to preserve and protect the public property and enforce the laws, rather than in new guarantees for particular interests, or compromises or concessions to unreasonable demands.

In support of this resolution he made a few remarks, closing with the following significant and prophetic words:

Sir, I have no special dread in regard to the future of this Republic. Civil war may come — disunion and dissolution may come, but, I pray God to deliver us from both; but, sir, whatever may come, I have an abiding faith in a kind Providence that has ever watched over us, that passing

man informed the committee that he occupied the same ground that Mr. Eastman did on the Nebraska question, and that he would not accept a nomination on the platform adopted. The convention, the great object of which was apparently to defeat Mr. Eastman, finally agreed that if Mr. Woodman would accept, he might make his own platform. This he declined to do, and finally Dr. Otis Hoyt, of Hudson, was nominated." The competitors of Gov. Washburn at the two subsequent elections to Congress, were the late Judge Samuel Crawford, and the late Judge Charles Dunn, both men of eminent ability and popular with their party.

events will be all over-ruled for good, and for the welfare of mankind in this and other lands. Gentlemen may talk of reconstructing this Government after it shall have been broken up and destroyed — it will not be reconstructed on the basis on which it now stands. Gentlemen may as well understand right here that if the Government is to be re-constructed, the people of the North will have a word to say as to the basis of that reconstruction; and no new union will be formed that does not give them terms of perfect equality.

If this union must be dissolved, whether by peaceable secession, or through fire and blood and civil war, we shall have the consolation of knowing that WHEN THE CONFLICT IS OVER, THOSE WHO SURVIVE IT WILL BE, WHAT THEY NEVER HAVE BEEN, INHABITANTS OF A FREE COUNTRY.

Mr. Washburn was ever true to the cause of liberty, and the slave found in him an able advocate and staunch friend.

After serving six years in Congress, Mr. Washburn declined another election, and soon after the expiration of his term, March 4, 1861, he changed his residence from Mineral Point to La Crosse. The late civil war soon followed, in which he took prominent part, and immediately after his return to civil pursuits, he was elected to the 40th Congress, taking his seat in the House of Representatives on the 4th of March, 1867; and was re-elected in 1868. In the 40th Congress, he served on the committees of Foreign Affairs, and on Expenditures of Public Buildings; and in the next Congress he served on the committees on Appropriations, on Private Land Claims, on the committee on the Causes of the Reduction of American Tonnage, and was chairman of the special committee on the Postal Telegraph. The fact of his being appointed to serve on so many important committees is evidence that he was held in high esteem in Congress. He was ever watchful of all interests intrusted to his care, and devoted himself with much energy to the labors of the several committees on which he served, and was active on the floor of the House. He was strongly in favor of uniting the postal and telegraphic service of the country, and that the lines of the latter be operated as a part of the postal system. From an exhaustive report he presented on this subject, we make a brief extract:

Let the Government buy out the lines, transfer the management to the postoffice department, and reduce at once the cost of telegraphing to a uniform rate, for any distance, to twenty cents for twenty words, and you will bring blessings and benefits to millions of our people who have hitherto

been deprived of the use of the telegraph. The mind can scarcely comprehend the vast advantages to the whole country that will ensue if this system is adopted. The experience of cheap telegraphy in Europe has demonstrated that sixty per cent. of dispatches sent are upon social or family matters, while here it is rarely used except upon urgent business. A money order system, such as is adopted in Europe, would be of incalculable benefit to the whole country, and would stimulate and promote all kinds of business to an extent that few now can comprehend. If you desire to pay any sum of money on a given day at New Orleans, San Francisco, or any other point, whether near or remote, you will have but to step to a postal telegraph money-order office, deposit the amount you desire to pay with twenty cents for a dispatch, and in an hour your correspondent on the Pacific coast has your money. From careful estimates, I am convinced that the postoffice department could add to itself the telegraph business of the country, and that it could do that business, with good wires, at an expense of $3,500,000 per annum — one-half, or less than one-half, what telegraphing now costs the country; that it could and would do five times the amount of telegraphing done to-day, at from one-fifth to one-tenth the rates charged at present, and be not only self sustaining, but a small source of revenue to the Government.

This favorite scheme of Mr. Washburn has not been put in operation, and the correctness of his views have not therefore been tested. His labors, however, in its behalf may not be lost, as at some future time the subject may again receive serious attention, and his investigations may prove of value.

In Congress, Mr. Washburn was a hard worker, and brought to bear on all important measures, the entire force of his strong mind and extensive business experience. He was not a frequent speaker; his most valuable service was on committees, where he never failed to exert a powerful influence, and always in the right direction. When he did speak, he received marked attention, and presented his views in clear and forcible language; never failing to make himself fully understood, and never attempting to conceal a wrong. He hated all kinds of jobbery, and dishonesty in every form, and never failed to raise his voice in earnest protest against any effort to defraud the Government. He carried into Congress the energy and integrity of character, in the consideration of public business, that ever characterized his conduct in his private transactions. His motto was to do right, and most nobly did he live up to its requirements.

At the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, Mr. Wash-

burn raised a cavalry regiment, and was commissioned as its Colonel. In June, 1862, he was commissioned as a Brigadier-General, and was assigned to the post at Helena, which he held till November, when, having been commissioned as a Major-General, the entire cavalry force in Arkansas was placed under his command. About that time Gen. Grant made a movement south for the capture of Vicksburg, and Gen. Washburn, with 2,000 cavalrymen, dislodged a force prepared to obstruct the progress of the army, at the crossing of the Tallahatchie. In February, 1863, he conducted an expedition which opened the Yazoo Pass, soon after which he took command of the cavalry at Memphis, where he remained until May, when he proceeded to take part in the siege of Vicksburg. He was ordered with two divisions to hold Haines' Bluff, and to watch Gen. Joe Johnston, who was in the rear near by with a large force, hoping to be able to raise the siege. In August following, Gen. Washburn, in command of the 13th Corps, joined Gen. Banks, for the purpose of taking part in the Texas campaign. At the battle of Grand Coteau, La., he, with his command, saved the 4th division, under General Burbridge, from annihilation by an overwhelming force of rebels. On the 29th of November, Gen. Washburn landed on the coast of Texas with 2,800 men, and compelled the evacution of Fort Esperanza, a bomb proof work, cased with railroad iron, surrounded by a deep moat filled with water, manned by 1,000 men and mounting ten guns. This movement was of much importance, as it gave the Union forces control of the entire coast of Texas, from Matagorda Bay to the Rio Grande. In January, 1864, becoming satisfied that there would be no further trouble in Texas, Gen. Washburn availed himself of a leave of absence for sixty days. At the expiration of this leave, he was ordered by Gen. Grant to Annapolis, to assist in the re-organizing of the 9th Corps, to which he was assigned. He was afterwards ordered to again assume command at Memphis, where he organized and sent out several expeditions to hold in check a large cavalry force, which would otherwise have operated on the communications of Gen. Sherman. In December, he was ordered to take command of the District of Vicksburg, but soon after was re-called to the

Department of Memphis, which command he held till the close of the war. The author of "Wisconsin in the War" asserts that "competent testimony from Memphis says that he was the best commander in that position during the war." His military record, like that in all public positions he has held, was excellent, evincing determined courage and will-power, directed by strong common sense.

The following official statement of the military services of Gen. Washburn has been received from the army records at Washington, attested by Gen. Geo. D. Ruggles, of the Adjutant General's Bureau:

"Statement of the military service of Cadwallader Colden Washburn, of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office:

"He was commissioned Colonel, 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, Oct. 10, 1861, reported for duty Oct. 10, 1831, and was mustered into the U. S. service Feb. 6, 1862. He left the State with his regiment March 24, 1862, and served in the army under Gen. Curtis, in Arkansas, to July, 1862. Was appointed Brigadier General, U. S. Vols., July 16, 1862, and Major General Nov. 29, 1862.

"He commanded a cavalry brigade in Arkansas, and also the post of Helena, Ark., July to Oct., 1862; commanded cavalry forces in Arkansas to Nov., 1862; Division in the Army of the Tennessee to Feb. 1863; Cavalry Division, 13th Corps, to April 9, 1863; Cavalry in West Tennessee to June 8, 1863; two divisions of the 16th Corps at Haines' Bluff, Miss., to July 28, 1863; 1st Division, 13th Corps, to Aug. 1, 1863; 13th Corps to Sept. 15, 1863; 1st Division, 13th Corps, to Oct. 20, 1863; 13th Corps to Oct. 26, 1863; 1st Division, 13th Corps, to Dec., 1863; and troops at Matagorda Peninsula, Texas, to Jan. 13, 1864; on leave of absence to March 29, 1864; under orders to April 23, 1864; commanding District of West Tennessee to Nov., 1864; District of Vicksburg to March 4, 1865; and the District of West Tennessee until he resigned, May 25, 1865."

In the spring of 1871, as his last term in Congress had expired, a large number of friends urged Mr. Washburn to become a candidate for Governor, and, notwithstanding his desire to give his entire attention to his vast private enterprises, he yielded to the wishes of the people and accepted the proffered nomination, and became the candidate for the Chief Executive office of the State. His opponent in the contest was Hon. James R. Doolittle, one of the most effective orators in the West, and a man of fine ability and extensive acquirements. Arrangements were made for a thorough canvass of the State, and the two candi-

dates spoke from the same platform in the principal cities, to immense audiences of interested people of all parties. While Mr. Doolittle may have possessed more of the graces of the finished orator than did Mr. Washburn, the latter was able to present the largest array of facts in support of the positions he assumed, in a straight-forward manner, and in strong and plain language for which he was proverbial. The debates were conducted with signal ability and decorum on both sides, and the result of the canvass was the triumphant election of Mr. Washburn. He was inaugurated as Governor of Wisconsin on the first Monday in January, 1872, and his administration of the affairs of State was one of marked success. His great executive ability, his wonderful energy of character, his strong practical sense, and his long and successful business experience, gave him immense power to do good work, and the State was materially benefited in many respects, through his superior management of the Executive department. In the autumn of 1873, Mr. Washburn was re-nominated by his party for the same office; but owing to a combination of circumstances over which he had no control,— the various factions of monopoly and anti-monopoly, of temperance and anti-temperance, and several other distracting elements were arrayed against him,— his opponent, William R. Taylor, was elected, to the surprise of the people generally. In this defeat of Governor Washburn the people were the greatest losers. To him it was a relief, and gave him an opportunity to look after his private affairs that very much needed his personal attention. Nor did his defeat detract, in the least degree, from the high reputation he had attained as an official. He will long be remembered by the people of the State as a model Governor.

With the close of his term as Governor, the official life of General Washburn ended; and, while his public career may not have been especially brilliant, as viewed by the world, it was able, practical and substantially useful to the country. In no position was his perfect integrity of character ever questioned. His fidelity to duty, and his energetic labor and honesty of purpose in all things, and at all times, were admitted, even by his political opponents. In his official career, General Wash-

burn, from the beginning to the close of his public life, realized fully the ideal character for whom the poet so earnestly prayed, when he wrote:

> "God give us men; a time like this demands
> Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;
> Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
> Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
> Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
> Men who can stand before a demagogue
> And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;
> Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
> In public duty and in private thinking."

General Washburn was undoubtedly an ambitious man; but his was a laudable ambition, springing from an intense desire to do the greatest amount of good that lay in his power, for his country and for mankind. He doubtless had a very strong desire to become a member of the United States Senate; and, in this ambition, he was backed, on several occasions, by a strong array of friends. In the contest for this exalted position in 1861, at the start, he was the strongest candidate before the Legislature. The late Governor Randall and the present Postmaster General, Hon. Timothy O. Howe, were the opposing candidates,—Mr. Washburn being the highest of the three. After several ballots had been taken in caucus, the opposing forces united upon Mr. Howe, and that gentleman was chosen Senator. Again, in 1869, he was the leading candidate for the same high office at the beginning of the contest before the Legislature; but was defeated in obtaining the nomination, by the uniting of most of the friends of the several other candidates upon the late Hon. Matt. H. Carpenter, who became Senator. In 1875, he was again brought forward as a candidate, and after a long and hard struggle, Mr. Carpenter received the nomination for re-election. The friends of Mr. Washburn were not satisfied with the result of the action in caucus, and withheld their votes from Mr. Carpenter in the Legislature, and after several days' voting, a union with the Democrats was effected, resulting in the election of Hon. Angus Cameron as Senator. At several other contests for United States Senator, the name of General Washburn was prominently mentioned in connection with the office, and he received a number of votes

in caucus; but it seemed decreed that this ambition should not be gratified; that he should not become a member of the United States Senate, a position he apparently desired above all others of an official character. These defeats resulted largely from the fact that General Washburn did not possess, in any special degree, magnetic power over men; he commanded their high respect, but was of that positive character that repelled rather than drew friends closely to him; in fine, he was no time-serving politician, and knew nothing of the arts of the demagogue. This is no reflection upon the uprightness of his character; his nature was rather unbending, and he could not draw around him those warm friendships that are essentially necessary to political success. He was forcible rather than plausible; positive rather than politic; hence the public positions he held were obtained because of his real ability and worth, rather than from special personal attachments of friends. This characteristic should be put down as a real merit in his make up, rather than as a defect.

After the term of Mr. Washburn as Governor had expired, he directed his entire attention to the management of his extensive and rapidly increasing business operations, and it was in this department that he met with his greatest successes in life. In the manufacture of lumber and flour he accumulated a large portion of his ample fortune, presumed to reach several millions of dollars. His early investments in pine lands proved of immense value to him, demonstrating his far-seeing sagacity in the purchase of them, and in the holding on to them through all the financial reverses, when men of less nerve and courage, and possessing less faith in the progress and growth of the country than he, would have abandoned these lands as worthless property to hold, many years before they became of value. He made, also, early investments in the water power at St. Anthony's Falls, becoming the principal owner of the west side power. He became interested in the manufacture of flour, and in 1876 erected an immense mill, which was destroyed by fire in 1878. This terrible loss did not dishearten this lion-hearted man in the least, but rather had the effect to stimulate him to greater efforts. He proceeded at once to the work of rebuilding his mills at Minneapolis on a still larger scale, with improved

machinery. He was the first man in the United States who introduced what is known as the patent process for the manufacture of flour, and the Hungarian roller system, that has proved so valuable. He visited the old country for the purpose of investigating all the improved processes for making flour, determined to secure the very best for his own mill. His efforts, though attended with much hard labor and large expense, were crowned with complete success, and his mill at Minneapolis is recognized as the most extensive and best in the world, capable of turning out 2,000,000 barrels per annum of the finest quality of patent flour. His flouring mills were his greatest pride, and to them, for the last few years of his life, he gave a large share of his personal attention, becoming thoroughly informed in all the details of the vast machinery. It was generally admitted that no man in this country was so thoroughly versed in milling, or possessed so complete a knowledge of every detail in the manufacture of flour, as was the late Gen. Washburn.

He was one of the early projectors and builders of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad, and was largely interested in many other business enterprises that required skill and energy to manage. His life was one of activity and hard work, and evinced tremendous will power and physical endurance.

His immense business success was not the result of accident or luck; but resulted from a keen foresight and from great thoroughness in the discharge of every duty in life. He never shirked any responsibility, but gave his personal attention to the work in hand. Integrity of character was his strong hold. His word was as good as his bond. An illustration of this is found in his conduct relating to the location of the Astronomical Observatory on the University grounds at Madison. He had made an appointment with a member of the Board of Regents to meet him at nine o'clock the next morning to stake out the ground upon which to locate this observatory. During the intervening night his great mill at Minneapolis was totally destroyed by fire. In the morning the Regent presumed the Governor had left for the scene of destruction on the night train and did not expect to meet him; but prompt at the moment, the noble Governor appeared on the ground, as cool as though nothing had happened, ready to proceed with the work.

The Regent expressed surprise at meeting him on account of the great calamity that had befallen his property during the previous night. The Governor calmly replied that the loss was a large one in property, but that was of small consequence; his sadness was on account of the loss of life and the general distress to the poor laboring people that it involved; he had given his word that he would aid in locating the observatory this morning, and but for that, perhaps it never would have been located at all. His word must be carried out to the letter. He would proceed at once with the work in charge, and then would proceed to Minneapolis to exert himself in aiding to relieve the distress caused by the destructive fire. His own loss was the last thing that disturbed his mind. This incident indicates the general characteristics of this great and good man. When he gave his word, he never failed to make it good.

There could be no failure in the success of such a character in whatever he might undertake; and it is not remarkable that for the last few years of his life, his business success has been almost fabulous. The death of such a man is a great loss to the business world.

Having thus briefly referred to the successes of General Washburn, in both his official and his business life, it may be well to sum up some of the characteristics of the man, that have been instrumental in producing such magnificent results. A distinguished Senator in speaking of a similar character, uses language so appropriate to our subject, that we adopt it as better than we could produce: "Born and educated in New England, passing the maturity of his years in the West, he united, in an uncommon degree, the qualities and characteristics of each; the shrewdness, the steadiness, the keen observation, the inflexible purpose of the one; the freshness, the eager earnestness, the sturdy robustness of the other; the fidelity, the truthfulness, the manliness of both. His sincerity was beyond question, his honest belief in the principles which he professed was never disputed; he meant what he said, and he said all that he meant. He had no halting opinions; he had a judgment, and a decided judgment, on every question that was ever presented to him. He was a forcible, but not a frequent speaker. The strength of his convictions found expression in the bold-

ness of his utterance. Disdaining the lighter graces of rhetoric, his speeches did not sparkle with wit nor glow with sentiment, but they bristled with facts; if he did not captivate by his style, he compelled assent by his reasoning; and when he had arranged his facts and constructed his argument, his conclusion followed with almost irresistible force. Devoting himself to commerce and to politics, he attained eminent success in each, and secured the highest rewards of both."

For several years past, General Washburn has served as President of the State Historical Society, in which he has ever taken a lively interest, and to which he has made many liberal and valuable contributions. His deep interest in the affairs of the Society cannot better be illustrated, than by a brief quotation from his own language. During the last year, the Secretary endeavored to arouse an interest to aid in securing a new building in which to better accommodate the large and rapidly increasing demands of the Society for room. General Washburn was then in Europe, but his views on this subject were asked, and in response to a letter from Mr. Draper, he wrote:

I read your letter with a great deal of interest and sincere approval. Though I am told by my physicians that I must stop writing, or even thinking, yet I will bid them defiance so far as to say to you, that I approve of every word you say. The State is justly proud of the Historical Society, and to you, especially, and to your associate, Mr. Durrie, is due the honor of its being what it is. It has grown to such proportions, that there is little opportunity for its enlargement without the State's co-operation. The room now occupied is wanted for other purposes. Wisconsin is a great and prosperous State — rapidly increasing in wealth and importance. The State is able to do whatever ought to be done to promote the public welfare. I do not see how the Legislature can withhold a proper appropriation for a building for the Society. No one can forecast the future, or tell to what proportions your collection may grow. It certainly will exceed the most sanguine anticipations of any; and I trust you will lay out for the far-off future.

Mr. Washburn was a philanthropist, as has been shown in many acts, and as such, the people will ever remember him with great respect. In the erection and gift to the State University, of the Astronomical Observatory, fully equipped with the best apparatus known to the world, he has reared a monument more enduring than stone or brass, and one that will cause his name to be mentioned with the highest respect and veneration for the

man who bore it, so long as education is respected in Wisconsin. This observatory does honor to the head and heart of the noble man, whose death the people of the State sincerely mourn. The blessings of the Commonwealth will ever be extended to the name of Washburn for this generous and useful donation.

For the benefit of education, he has also presented his beautiful home, near Madison, known as "Edgewood," another generous act, honorable to him as a man and as a philanthropist.

In his will, he has also provided for the establishment and endowment of a public library at his last home, the city of La Crosse, that will bestow untold blessings to the people of that beautiful city throughout all succeeding generations. In like manner, he has provided for the erection of an Orphan's Asylum in the city of Minneapolis, in honor of his revered mother. Such acts of public liberality endear him to the hearts of the people.

In view of the many and important services Mr. Washburn has rendered for the benefit of education and otherwise, the Legislature by law created him a Life Regent of the State University, an honor never conferred upon any other citizen, but most worthily bestowed in this instance.

In 1873, Governor Washburn was honored with the degree of Doctor of Laws, by the University.

Though Governor Washburn was but sixty-four years of age when he died, still, reckoned from the vast extent and value of his works, his life had been a long and an eventful one, and the rich fruits of that life will never die. His name will live in history, as one of the noble men of the Republic. As Congressman, as an officer in the late war, as Governor of his adopted State, as President of the State Historical Society, as a Life Regent of the State University, as a philanthropist, as a business man, and as a citizen, he has left the enduring impress of a master mind. Nobility of character was delineated in every position he occupied in life.

Notwithstanding a large share of the time of Mr. Washburn must have been devoted to the care of his vast business, still, possessing the taste, he found considerable time to devote to the reading and study of books; and, having a remarkable memory, had accumulated a large amount of practical and valuable in-

formation, that rendered him an exceedingly interesting man in social conversation. He was quite familiar with American and English literature and history. He was also a lover of poetry, and derived much pleasure in reading the products of the best authors. He was very ready and apt in his poetical quotations in public speaking and in conversation.

In personal appearance Gen. Washburn was singularly imposing; and everything that pertained to him — his physical stature, his mind, his manner, his address — gave the impression of massiveness. No one could converse with him for any length of time, without feeling assured that he was in the presence of a powerful mind, well stored with interesting and practical knowledge.

In his religious views, Mr. Washburn was liberal minded and full of charity. On this point, we extract from the excellent discourse of Rev. Mr. Tuttle, who officiated at his funeral, as best indicating his religious sentiments. Mr. Tuttle said:

> In respect to Mr. Washburn's religious views I can, perhaps, without touching upon any indelicacy, say this: He accepted earnestly the fundamental truth of Christianity, he had a profound respect for the Christian rites and services, and while he entertained distinct and positive opinions on religious doctrines, he was modest in the assertion of those opinions, was exceedingly free from offensive dogmatism, and charitable toward all sects and denominations. He was more anxious, evidently, as all men should be, to exhibit a sound life than sound doctrines. We have seen what his life was — let us infer from this what his reverence for God and for the Savior was. Loving man, whom he did see, what better evidence could he have given that he loved God, whom he did not see? He was an optimist in religion as he was in most other things. His nature was keyed to a hopeful, cheerful strain. There was not a drop of despair in his mind. Helping with all his might to save mankind in this world, he hoped and believed that God through his infinite power and mercy will finally save it in the next.

In his domestic relations Mr. Washburn has been unfortunate. In early manhood he was united in marriage with Miss Jeanette Garr, daughter of the late Andrew S. Garr, Esq., an able, accomplished and successful lawyer in New York city. She was an intelligent and estimable lady, possessing the acquirements to make a happy home; but, after a few years of domestic happiness and real enjoyment, she became a confirmed invalid for life, from the loss of mind, and the family has ever since, for a period of more than thirty years, been deprived of her

presence and cheering influence. In all this time of sadness, she has been tenderly cared for, in the best possible manner, by her devoted husband. Nothing that money could provide to alleviate her terrible malady has been left undone. His wealth has been liberally bestowed in seeking her comfort; and in his will, the most ample provision is made for her future support. He leaves two daughters, both married. The eldest is the wife of A. W. Kelsey, Esq., of St. Louis, and the youngest is the wife of Col. Charles Payson of Washington city, late United States Minister to Denmark.

The career of Gen. Washburn presents a rare illustration of the excellence of our institutions; and affords hope to every struggling, brave-hearted youth, who is conscious of a noble purpose and possesses inherent strength. It shows what a determined spirit, guided by upright and honest principles, can accomplish by his own efforts. His life is well worthy of imitation.

How firm a hold Mr. Washburn had upon the people of his adopted State was exemplified after his death, which occurred in a distant region. On the news reaching the Capital of Wisconsin, the Governor immediately issued a proclamation, announcing, in fitting terms, the sad event, and appointing a committee to receive the remains at the State line, and to accompany them to his late home at La Crosse, and to attend his funeral. One of the great railway companies in the State, through the Hon. Alexander Mitchell, its President, a life-long personal friend of Gov. Washburn, tendered a special train for the transportation of the remains and the committee from Chicago, and free transportation was tendered to friends from all points in the State and from Minneapolis, in Minnesota, to the place where the body was to be committed to the dust. As the train bearing the honored remains passed through the State, there were demonstrations of respect for the man living, and grief on account of his death, at every station on the line. People turned out in large numbers, military companies were drawn up in line, and stood with arms presented as the train passed on, and sadness was depicted on every countenance at the great loss the people had sustained in the death of this noble-hearted and upright citizen. At the funeral nearly every town in the State was

represented; the farmer left the plow; the mechanic the shop; the merchant the counting room. At the Capitol of the State, all public business was suspended on the day of the funeral, by order of the Governor; in his own city of La Crosse, and in Minneapolis, the center of his chief business operations, the wheels of the manufacturing establishments ceased to move, the hand of industry rested from labor, that a proper tribute of respect should be paid to the memory of departed worth. Floral tokens of admiration and affection were various and plentiful at his funeral rites — many of unique design and possessing rare beauty. The procession that followed the sacred dust to its final resting place in the beautiful cemetery, within the limits of the delightful city that had been chosen by himself as his last home on earth, presented a remarkable scene of love and devotion. The streets were literally thronged with men and women with moistened eyes, anxious to pay their last mournful tribute of love and respect to the distinguished dead.

The memory of Washburn will long be held dear to the hearts of the good people of Wisconsin!

Farewell, illustrious statesman; uncompromising patriot; liberal hearted philanthropist; indefatigable worker; successful business man; loyal citizen; staunch friend of freedom; stalwart politician; fearless adviser; genial companion; and honest man! The State mourns a man without reproach; without stain; a soul above suspicion.

"The air is thick with death. His flying shafts
Strike down to-day, the bravest in the land;
And here and there, how suddenly he wafts
His fatal arrows! Nor can long withstand
The mailed warrior, or statesman manned
Against him. But why should he hasten on
* * * * to strike one down
Just in the zenith of his strength and glory of renown?

"Washburn! above thy grave, we bow in tears!
The generous friend, the unrelenting foe,
In halls of state who stood for many years,
Like fabled knight, thy visage all aglow!
Receiving, giving sternly, blow for blow!
* * * * * *
"Champion of right! But from Eternity's far shore
Thy spirit will return to join the strife no more.
Rest! Statesman, rest! Thy troubled life is o'er."

Hon. Harlow S. Orton, LL.D., of the Supreme Court, offered the following remarks:

It has been assigned to me to speak of Gov. Washburn's private, public and business character, and I shall do so with brevity, and I trust with truthfulness.

Our acquaintance began about thirty-five years ago, and had been somewhat intimate most of the time until he died. In early Territorial times, the firm of Washburn & Woodman of Mineral Point, engaged in the business of banking, law and dealing in real estate, was, and continued to be, for many years, one of our most prominent and creditable business concerns, and achieved great success, and for that time, wealth. Both Washburn and Woodman were amongst the earliest friends and supporters of this Society, and have done much for its success, by their encouragement, counsel and contributions. In 1852, by the urgent request of Gov. Farwell and myself, Gov. Washburn came to Madison and assisted in framing a general banking law for this State, and his suggestions tended greatly to perfect it, with the view of securing both bill holders and depositors against any possible loss; and that law failed only in these respects, by the vicious construction and loose, if not dishonest practices, of those having charge of its execution.

His great abilities, and excellent character, early in the history of the State, commended him to the people of his district as a candidate for Congress, and his prominence and usefulness in that body, made his election sure for many years. After his return from distinguished service in the war, he became a resident of another district, which he also represented for many terms. At one time, at least, he might have been elected a member of the United States Senate, had he pledged himself in advance of his election to a special course of official conduct, which in itself was not particularly objectionable, but which he did not approve. In the Congress of the United States, at a time when Credit Mobilier frauds and Congressional stock jobbing had seduced and corrupted its members to such an extent that even so-called Christian statesmen received bribes, and well nigh committed perjury to conceal them, he stood almost alone in their exposure and denunciation. For one term, and for one term only, he was allowed to fill the execu-

tive office, and for the next he was most unaccountably defeated. It is no disparagement to our other Governors to say, that he made the ablest and best Governor Wisconsin ever had, and filled the full measure of that high office which ought never to be sought by any one incapable of performing all of its duties, and he was not out-ranked by any Governor in the Union.

As a business man Gov. Washburn had great energy, endurance and perseverance, far-seeing sagacity and sound judgment, and his great success in business was not the result of accident or chance, but of the exercise of these qualities. He had well laid plans, and a perfect system in all the multiplicity of his business enterprises, which facilitated their accomplishment, and enabled him to achieve so much without the aid or agency of others. His great wealth was the product of his own private business, and was not obtained or enhanced by the questionable contributions of Government patronage, land grants, corporate monopolies, or stock speculations. The same great qualities he exercised in his own business, he carried with him into his official life, and which made him such an efficient worker in the public service.

In office, he was distinguished for his patriotism, integrity, fidelity and severe economy; and he managed all public concerns as he did his own, except that he expended the public funds under his control, with even a stricter economy than he did his own, and put no loose construction upon laws made for their protection, for the benefit of himself or his friends. As Governor, he assumed no doubtful executive powers, and he was content to do his full duty within the requirements of the Constitution. He treated all offices as public trusts to be administered solely for the public good, and not for his own aggrandizement and cheap glory. He was even greater than the offices he filled, and honored them more than they honored him. His strict impartiality to his friends and enemies, both personal and political, and his almost captious particularity in official business, in matters small as well as great, his rigid scrutiny into the subordinate public service, and his selection of the best only, to fill the offices within his own appointment, made him unpopular with those who look only to the profits of political friendships, and expect dishonest rewards to be paid

out of the public treasury, for political services. From his subordinates, he exacted no personal or political loyalty to himself, but only obedience to law and a strict discharge of duty. His private character may be disposed of in a single sentence. So far as I have knowledge, it was exemplary and above reproach. As in office he always gave to the public more than he received, so his life has been distinguished by his private and public benefactions, and so he died, and his memory will always be honored by our people.

Secretary Draper read the following expression, contributed by Ex-Gov. Wm. B. Washburn, of Massachusetts, the associate in Congress of Gen. C. C. Washburn:

During the war in the year 1862, I first met General Washburn in Washington. He had been assigned to duty in the Department of the Gulf under General Grant. It was at a time when the cause of the Union seemed to be enveloped in a dark cloud. The most courageous were despondent, and the minds of all were filled with grave doubts as to the future. At such an hour I shall never forget how refreshing it was to meet such a strong, brave man, fresh from the field of conflict. He inspired all with whom he mingled with new hope and courage, and allowed no one for a moment to doubt the ultimate triumph of our cause. He impressed you at the first as a man of indomitable will and energy, determined to show the sincerity of his convictions by his deeds, and ready to risk, if need be, everything he possessed, in order that victory might be ours.

He remained in the army till he saw his predictions in regard to the ultimate triumph of the Union arms fully verified. Possessing those qualities which fitted him in an eminent degree to discharge the duties of public life in that trying hour of our country's history, he was not allowed to remain at home to devote himself long to his large private business. He was at once selected to represent his district in Congress. It was there I met him daily, and knew him best. He did not labor to make himself conspicuous by the frequent sound of his voice, but rather by wise counsel and faithful service to guard the interests of his constituents, and to promote the welfare

of the State. He was rarely absent from his post of duty, and rarely, if ever, found recorded upon the wrong side of any of the great questions of the day. He was affable and courteous, frank and generous in his intercourse with his fellow-members, and thereby gained a wide and powerful influence, to secure the success of any important measure in which he might become interested. He always guarded with jealous care the rights of the people, and was ever on the alert to secure the passage of such measures as in his view would specially promote their welfare. Our rail-roads, spreading their net-works over every section of the country, quickening into renewed intensity the exchanges of business and the intercourse of men, brought blessings the value of which could never be computed by figures, and yet were destined, he feared, to become at no distant day, great monopolies, managed in such a manner as to add to the wealth of the few, at the expense of the many. He labored faithfully by his voice and vote to provide such safeguards as should insure the people at large their full share of the advantages to be derived from these great thorough-fares.

But he became more especially interested in the telegraph system of the country. To this subject he gave much of his time and strength. This mysterious agency which man had subjected, obediently carried his commands across all lands and seas, and connected all civilized lands together, and was yet destined, as he believed, to unite the families of men even more closely together. To this end he desired its advantages should be enjoyed by every rank and class of society. In England the state acquired by purchase all telegraphs, and so extended the system that in a short time every village in the kingdom enjoyed the inestimable privilege of instantaneous communication with every part of the inhabited globe. He feared that in this country the system was destined to be so managed, that its extravagant rates would confine its advantages to the few, and the great mass of the people would be deprived of its benefits. He accordingly spent much time in the preparation of a measure similar to the English plan, which gave the Government the ownership and control of the entire system. It was to be as general and universal in its operations as the post-office system: and, in fact, to be made a sort of adjunct to that institu-

tion. The rates were to be reduced to the lowest possible point, and cover expenses, so that all might enjoy its advantages, and thus it should be made a general, universal educator of every section and condition of the country. He failed in his endeavor, and his predictions have already been most painfully realized. The system has become a gigantic fraud, robbing the many to enrich the few.

As I reflect upon General Washburn's public career, I am compelled to say that I never met him in the way of public duty without being impressed by a sense of his sound judgment and high principle. He held his opinions from conviction; and, according to his light, served the nation purely, honestly and faithfully; and whoever has done that with all his ability, has done his best. He has passed away, but his noble works and generous deeds still remain. The present and coming generations shall continue to enjoy the rich fruits of his labors and sacrifices, and now and then one may be encouraged to imitate some of his many virtues.

Prof. J. B. Parkinson, of the State University, spoke as follows:

The lives of the great and good really need no eulogium. Their deeds speak for them, and are often more eloquent than words. This is true of him whose private character and public services we are met to commemorate, and whose life throughout was marked with the rarest qualities of honor, courage, wisdom, and manly virtue.

Few men of our State, perhaps none, have taught more by their example, and taught better, than C. C. Washburn. Coming to the wild West of forty years ago, with no fuller equipments than two hands, a clear brain, and a stout heart, he entered at once upon the work of its subduing with an enthusiasm born of unconquerable energy and boundless faith. From the beginning to the end, he grew in power and influence, and finally reached that almost perfect stature of vigorous and symmetrical manhood, which may fitly be claimed as a part of the well ripened fruitage, from good seed, of this teeming West.

To a really successful life the end can never come untimely.

Such a life was Governor Washburn's; not without disappointments — hours of watching and waiting, and temporary discomfiture — but viewed as a whole, eminently successful. For forty years in private station and public service, he went in and out before the people of this Commonwealth, and in sight of the world. No word can be truthfully said of that life which does not honor his memory.

It is a part of success to amass wealth, if done honestly, and with conspicuous fair dealing. It is a mark of success to win public honors, in State and Nation, if they are bestowed as a badge of confidence or reward of merit. Such success was Gov. Washburn's, but it was not his highest nor his best. This lay in the line of his moral manhood. It consisted in building up, and preserving intact, throughout all the temptations of private business, and the seductions and blandishments of public station, those qualities of head and heart which gave him a reputation for stern integrity and unbending uprightness. He may have erred in judgment. All men do so; but the occasions are rare, even under the impulse of conflicting business interests or party excitement, when anyone has ventured to impugn his motives or question his integrity.

The most successful man of affairs is one who not only knows how to accumulate wealth, but also how to use it to advantage. Here, also, Gov. Washburn showed his strong practical sense and kindly nature. His benefactions during life, and the public legacies he left at his death, evinced a catholicity of spirit which were characteristic of the man. Of these I need not speak. It is enough to say that his gift to the University is especially unique in kind, and timely in its making. But his services to that institution are not measured by the worth of the Observatory alone. His highest and best contribution, after all, is the example of his life and character. This his other gifts help to commemorate, and thereby do double service.

The Observatory is a noble contribution to a special and very important branch of science. Its quickening influence, too, will touch all branches, and so its value to the University can scarcely be over-estimated. But it is an aid to young men chiefly in one department, while the life and character of Mr.

Washburn himself, is a direct and constant help to them everywhere, and in all departments.

Never in the history of our country was there more need of such teaching. The danger of the times is that we shall overlook personal character in estimating men's life-work. There is a tendency in certain directions to lower the standard of action — to confuse ideas of right and wrong — to consult policy first, and principle afterward — in brief, to stifle conscience and crush out manhood, in the strife for the great prizes which the world has to offer. Here lies the danger to which the young men of the day are especially exposed, and here the need of just such teaching as is emphasized by the life, character, and services of Mr. Washburn. These are worthy of careful study, and may be emulated by every young man, with profit to himself and advantage to the State.

No man in the North-west, perhaps, could have died at this time and left a wider vacancy. The grief for his loss, too, is sincere and universal. It reaches to all classes — the high and the low, the rich and the poor. The firm hold he had upon the respect of his fellow men was well attested at death. The halls of learning then were closed, the wheels of commerce refused to turn, and the busy hand of industry rested, that all might pay final tribute to the memory of departed worth.

Great heart, rest in peace! Many have toiled longer, few to better purpose. Besides: — "That life is long which answer's life's great end." And better than all — and here we find partial compensation — of C. C. Washburn it may with deepest truth be said, "Although dead, he yet liveth."

Prof. J. D. Butler, LL.D., offered the following remarks:

It is impossible for me to add anything to the impressions that have already been made. The address of Gen. Atwood reminded me of Barrow, who was styled the "unfair preacher," because he left nothing for speakers who came after him to say. At all events, gleaners after his harvest have plucked even the two or three berries that remained in the top of the uppermost bough, or in the outmost branches.

But my task is now hardest because the strongest impression of us all is that Washburn needs no eulogy, more than God needs proof of his existence. When sophists wandered over Greece proposing to declaim in praise of Hercules, men put them to shame, and sometimes reduced them to silence, by asking, "Who has ever blamed him? Show us who has ever convicted him of faults, before you utter superfluous encomiums." In like manner our real feeling is that of the old Roman whose advice was, "Would you praise Cæsar, say Cæsar, go no farther." So of Washburn I may say, "More than his name is less."

But Washburn was our Hercules in more than one sense. He was like him a pioneer hero. He cleansed our Augean stable, slew many a lion, dragon and hydra that beset our path, and brought us the apples of the Hesperides. Both touched society at many points, and everywhere approved themselves masters of the situation. Tried in all vicissitudes of many colored life, the experience of both was often painful, but always profitable to their own characters. Thus both turned out

> "Not like idle ore,
> But iron dug in central gloom,
> And heated hot by burning fears,
> And dipped in baths of hissing tears,
> And battered by the dints of doom,
> To shape and use."

How Washburn's will had grown in skill! How much his capacities had been developed! But was not the greatest still behind, and not yet revealed?

I see before me the portrait of Nathaniel Ames. Twenty-two years ago he sat before me as I was delivering a Fourth of July oration in this park. He was the only surviving Revolutionary soldier in Wisconsin, and already in his hundredth year. He had served on the coast of Connecticut, had been a pioneer in Western New York before the close of the eighteenth century, and was among the early pilgrims west of Lake Michigan. I called him a three-fold man — a man of three lives. He had fought the foes of his country on the land and on the sea, and, if the Almighty had given him wings, he would have fought them in the air. All this was done by Washburn and

on a grander theater in less than two-thirds of Ames's length of days. Had Washburn lived on, even up to the age of his own father,— that is eight and twenty years longer, what would he not have acquired? All rich men have found it first hard to make a little, and then easy to make much. Understanding better than most millionaires the true uses of wealth, he would have abounded more and more in benefactions. He would have devised new charities.

New charities, I say, he would have devised, for, like the apostle Paul, he strove not to build upon another man's foundation, but as a wise master-builder he laid foundations himself, that others might build thereon. Thus he was founder of the Dominican school, and of the Observatory in this city, founder of the People's Library in La Crosse, founder of the Hospital in Minneapolis,— founder, I had almost said, of our Historical Society, of which he was President at his death,— founder of modern milling on a mammoth scale, which doubles every grain of wheat. He deserves to outrank many founders of cities. His handiwork is nobler than theirs, and will outlast it — monumental as the Pillars of Hercules.

Washburn is said to have failed to put the crowning keystone on the arch of his political aspirations. But if he failed to be elected Senator, it was confessed on all hands that no office could honor him so much as he would honor the office, and that his failure was owing to his ignorance, or scorn, of political mysteries, say rather meannesses.

> "A falcon, towering in his pride of place,
> Was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed."

I am reminded of the lion of Lucerne — one of the grandest designs of Thorwaldsen. It is thirty feet long, and cut in a cliff of living rock overhanging a pool which mirrors every feature. That king of beasts has a spear thrust through his heart, but still, though moribund, grasps with both paws the escutcheon of France, symbolizing the unflinching firmness and fidelity of the Swiss guard, who died fighting against fearful odds in defense of the French monarch. Washburn also felt the iron enter his soul, but he remained tenacious of his principles to the last, no matter who might prove recreant, or what he himself might suffer.

Another spear of yet more rankling venom cut Washburn to the heart. His household temple became emptiness and desolation. She who in his bloom of youth had sat there as its angel, was possessed by a fiend whom no man could cast out. A skeleton was in his closet, a ghost haunted his home.

The behavior of Washburn all through the thirty years which it pleased Heaven to make his life bitter with this great sorrow, I cannot but admire beyond all the rest of his life. In the living death of one adored with the love of forty thousand brothers, a stoic would advise suicide. But Christian philosophy says: "When all the blandishments of life are done, the coward slinks to death — the brave live on."

But merely *to live* was intolerable to Washburn. He plunged into whatever his hand found to do with ten fold more energy than ever before, and when asked the reason of his intensified activities, by his intimates, Judge Potter and Dr. Hobbins, answered that it was not any need or care for wealth, but simply to escape becoming crazy himself through brooding over his domestic calamity. Business then became to him a strong tower in which he could take refuge from his woe. There his nervous excitement, of momentum vast as his own Mississippi Falls, and which, if dammed up, would have produced a deluge, found full scope,— ample room and verge enough. Among other blessings, it gave better bread to millions.

The promise that "he who handleth a matter wisely shall find good," was fulfilled to Washburn. A serpent came to sting him like Moses, but when he seized it, it became a thaumaturgic wand for him as for Moses. Or, possibly, his transforming bane to blessing is best illustrated by what we observe in the pearl oyster. When a bit of gravel, slipping into his shell, chafes and irritates his delicate organs, he so lubricates and coats it that it becomes a pearl of price, a jewel that may hang twenty years before your eyes and never lose its lustre. Age cannot wither nor custom stale its infinite variety,— the most celestial of all gems — for in the Divine revelator's vision of the city of God, "the twelve gates were twelve pearls, and every several gate was of one pearl."

Thrice and four fold happy may we count Washburn, since he had learned so much of the grand alchemy,— the blest art

of turning all to gold. Seeing how high he rose above the low level, and low ideals of many around him, and how far he was lifted above his own grief, I shall always view his character as best shadowed forth by the crown of our Continent,— the loftiest mountain in our National Park, and which, as if through pre-established harmony, already bears his name.

> "There a tall cliff lifts up its awful form,
> Springs from the vale and midway leaves the storm,
> Though rolling clouds around its breast be spread,
> Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

Prof. Edward S. Holden, of the Washburn Observatory, submitted the following observations:

Governor Washburn's relations to the University of Wisconsin, and to its Astronomical Observatory, are twofold: they are special and general. As long as the Observatory which he founded shall stand, and shall continue to do useful and faithful work, so long his name will be remembered among us all, and specially remembered by the students of our University, for whose benefit these instruments were placed. It is no small thing to thus impress one's name, even, upon succeeding generations of the young and ardent minds of a large community. But to those who knew Governor Washburn best, this will seem a comparatively small thing.

His character was greater than his works, and to any one who comes in contact with young minds, it will seem more important that they should become penetrated with the sense of his moral greatness, than that they should be impressed with the magnitude of his gifts. The college is the door-way to life as it is; and to-day, as always, a young man has to select not only the acquirements which will serve him, but the motives which are to guide him in his after life. There is a mental and a moral education.

It was this aspect of Governor Washburn's relations to the University which was especially considered in the resolutions which the Faculty of the University caused to be entered upon their records. And I cannot better express my own sense of the high value which so simple and great a life may be to the

students of our University, than by transcribing these resolutions here.

At a meeting of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, held May 22, 1882, the following report of a committee was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, By the death of Gov. Washburn, the University of Wisconsin has lost a wise and generous friend, one of its Board of Regents, and the founder of its Astronomical Observatory; and

Whereas, The President and Faculty of the University wish to place upon record their appreciation of his eminent services and of his honorable life, be it

Resolved, That the Faculty of the University desire to commend to the attention of all men, and most especially to the attention of the students of the University, the consideration of Gov. Washburn's life and character.

That life was marked by rare qualities of perfect honor, of high courage, of sober wisdom, of steady public and private virtue.

Such a life has always been, and will always be, the highest testimony to the essential soundness of the political and social system under which it grows; and his life was an almost ideal realization of the best possibilities of our republic.

It may stand before his fellow-citizens, and specially before the young men of Wisconsin, as an example of success which could only have been achieved by the strongest mental faculties directed by the most sturdy moral force.

For forty years his life has been spent among us, open to all to see. No word can be said of it which does not honor his memory. As a public man he served his country for ten years in the Congress of the United States; for two years as Governor of Wisconsin; and as a General of brigade and division during five years of open war. All his public service was marked by the integrity which distinguished his private life.

His extensive business affairs were so conducted as to be of great importance to the community in which he lived. The success which he attained is felt by his neighbors as a positive benefit. It was won by the most conspicuous fair dealing; and it led to no other man's hurt.

The riches which he gained, he employed while he was living in public and private benefactions, and after his death he has left noble legacies for public uses.

The grief for his loss was confined to no class or condition. His body was followed to its resting place by the highest officers of the State, and by thousands of his fellow-citizens from every walk in life. The serious sorrow of a whole community is an impressive proof of the honor in which men hold a noble and an upright fellow man; it is a tribute which would dignify a king.

His whole life in its wide relations to politics, to affairs, to science and to society, has been a continuous and deserved success. It is to the essential cause of this success that his friends are proud to point, and to which those who are to succeed him, *must* attend.

That cause was found in his sound judgment, his strong reason, and his sober moral sense, which combined to produce his public virtues and his private kindness.

The fame of such a man is safe in the hands of his successors. It is for them to form themselves on his large and ample plan.

Resolved, That the relations of Governor Washburn to the University — as a member of its Board of Regents, and as the founder of the Washburn Observatory — were marked by wisdom and continued generosity.

The department which bears his name will never lose the impress of his character; and, in a wider sense, his liberal gifts will keep his memory fresh in the minds of his fellow-citizens, for whose benefit they were bestowed.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of Governor Washburn, with the assurance of the sincere sympathy of the Faculty of the University in their private grief and personal loss.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread on the minutes of the Faculty, and that they be printed in the College papers, conducted by the students of the University.

My personal relations with Governor Washburn began with a feeling of high respect upon my part, and grew to a manly affection and regard, which I am proud to believe became mutual. How many other complicated affairs were pressing upon him I never knew. I only knew that I could always have his undivided attention, and a clear decision. After the premature death of Professor Watson, I was called to take charge, not only of the Astronomical, but of the business affairs of the new Observatory, and I was frequently asked to give my opinion, both as a man of science and as an accountant. From the very first, I was struck by the way in which details of every sort were mastered by Governor Washburn's clear mind. I felt that the essential principles of what I was doing, or wished to do, were plain to him, and that he sympathized with the methods of science fully. In looking over copies of my letters to him, I find that I wrote as I would to a man of science in a branch different from my own. If the fundamental facts were presented, and an outline of the argument given, he was sure to see and understand.

I had no need to be persuasive or urgent. As soon as he saw that a thing was good, he approved of it, and the equipment of his Observatory is a proof of this. I know of nothing which is there, which could be made better.

One thing only I was obliged to extort from him; and this

was the permission to place his portrait in his own Observatory where it now hangs. He repeatedly refused this to me, and finally I only obtained permission by a pardonable subterfuge.

I caused a framed photograph of himself to be hung in a place where it was obviously inadequate, and it was to replace this photograph that the excellent painting by Mr. Stuart was made.

His main interest was, that the instruments should be "good" and sufficient; and I think that the chief pleasure which he derived from the Observatory came, in the last days of his illness, in looking over the proof-sheets of our first volume of observations, which I regularly transmitted to him.

To you, whom I am addressing, these traits will seem to be a matter of course; and yet it takes but a moment's reflection to see that they are unusual and exceptional. In little things as in great, he displayed a sound and sufficient reason, and his motive force was simple and upright. It is, perhaps, a significant circumstance, that I, whose friendship for Governor Washburn is of a younger date than that of any of you — his associates and friends of years — should feel as if the things that needed most to be emphasized were the very things that each speaker has most dwelt upon — his moral character, his sturdy will, his steady goodness, his virtue in every public and private capacity. And the significance is in this — that each of us has felt that he was dealing with a character founded upon the eternal verities. His was such a soul as Chaucer has described — sober, pitiful, wise, true as steel itself. No man could meet him without honoring his strength, nor know him well without loving his rectitude.

Prof. O. M. Conover, LL.D., in behalf of the committee on Resolutions, said:

On the evening of Sunday, the fourteenth of May last, the President of this Society, Cadwallader C. Washburn, passed away from earth. From the distant State in which he had been sojourning in the fond hope of a restoration to health, his mortal remains were brought by loving and reverent hands to Wisconsin. They were received at our borders as the possession

of the whole State, and, attended by a vast concourse of sincere mourners from all parts of our territory, and from all conditions in life, were consigned to their last resting place in the city of his former home. Within a few weeks after his decease, the general sentiment of respect and admiration for his character, and of regret for the close of his distinguished and beneficent career, had found expression, not only in the utterances of the Commonwealth through its official head, and the singularly impressive incidents associated with the last solemn rites of burial, but in the declarations and resolutions of private associations and public bodies, military, civic and religious, almost without number. Meanwhile the State Historical Society has found until now no fitting occasion for the expression of its own sense of loss, or of the respect and affection in which it holds its departed chief; but its silence has been due to the fact that it was endeavoring to prepare, not only for immediate use, but for permanent preservation, some suitable memorial of the eminent citizen, patriot, statesman and public benefactor whom it delighted to honor. In the careful record of his laborious, fearless, faithful, upright, energetic, magnanimous and eminently useful and successful life, which has been presented as a part of the transactions of this meeting, and in the characteristic illustrations and loving memories of that life which accompany that record, will be found most fully expressed the tribute which this Society desires to pay to its late President. In addition to recording these authentic memorials of his career, and without adopting the conventional form of resolutions, the members of this Society hereby declare their profound sense of the value to the whole State of the noble character which has now passed from among the living. So long as great capacity, great common sense, strong and firm will, vast business and administrative faculty, and the most unquestionable and uncompromising probity, combined with enlightened patriotism and public spirit, a warm and humane heart, and large practical philanthropy, all informed, animated and rendered effective by a physical and mental energy which only disease and death could overcome — so long as these high qualities, and long, arduous and eminent public service and private usefulness flowing from them, com-

mand the regard and admiration of mankind, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the citizens of that State, without distinction of sect or party, will do homage to the memory of Cadwallader C. Washburn.

Hon. Mortimer M. Jackson, formerly a Judge of the Circuit and Supreme Courts of Wisconsin, long Consul-General of the United States at the port of Halifax, and a brother-in-law of the late Gov. Washburn, being called upon, said:

I fully appreciate the kindness which has prompted the call made upon me to say a few words on this occasion.

I think, however, it would be quite out of place in me, especially at this late hour, to attempt to add anything to what has been so well, so eloquently, and so appropriately said by the distinguished gentlemen who have this evening addressed you respecting the life, character and public services of the late Cadwallader C. Washburn.

I, therefore, avail myself of your courtesy only to return, on behalf of the absent relatives of the deceased, their thanks for these memorial services, which I am sure they will regard with profound interest, and long remember with grateful appreciation.